

Serial No.: 10/003,883
Examiner: Chirag G. Shah

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-16, 18-20 and 22-30 remain in this application, with claims 1, 12, 16, and 20 being independent claims. Claims 2, 17, and 21 have been canceled. Claims 1, 3, 4, 11, 16, 18, 19, 20, 22, and 28 have been amended. Claims 2-11, 17-19 and 21-30 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 12-15 have been indicated as allowable.

Independent claims 1 and 20 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e), and claim 16 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a). Applicant has amended each of these claims to include limitations of dependent claims indicated to be allowable. In particular, claim 1 was amended to substantially include the limitations of dependent claim 2. Claim 16 was amended to substantially include the limitations of dependent claim 17, and claim 20 was amended to substantially include the limitations of dependent claim 21. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that these rejections be withdrawn.

Regarding dependent claims 3-11, as these claims depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 1, for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1, Applicant respectfully asserts that these claims are in condition for allowance.

Regarding dependent claims 18 and 19, as these claims depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 16, for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 16, Applicant respectfully asserts that these claims are in condition for allowance.

Regarding dependent claims 22-30, as these claims depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 20, for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 20, Applicant respectfully asserts that these claims are in condition for allowance.


It is believed that the foregoing amendment places the Application in condition for allowance; therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection set forth in the Office Action, and full allowance of same. Should the Examiner have any further

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comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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